

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the present patent application. Claims 10, 12-13, 15 and 19-20 are amended. Claim 1 has been amended to correct grammatical errors, but has not been substantively amended. Claims 21-22 have been added. Claims 1-9 have been previously allowed. In view of at least the following, all currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and, therefore, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections. *However, if after considering this response the Examiner does not allow all of the claims, the Applicants' attorney requests that the Examiner contact him to schedule a telephone interview to further the prosecution of this application.*

Rejection of claims 10-11, 14 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakayama (U.S. Patent No. 6,181,210)

Claim 10

Claim 10 as amended recites a first circuit operable to produce a first signal that represents a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal, and a second circuit operable to produce a second signal and to combine the second signal with the first signal to produce a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero.

For example, referring to FIGS. 2a-2c and paragraphs 32-36 of the patent application, in an embodiment a first circuit **205** is operable to produce a first signal **Ip** that represents the phase difference between a feedback signal **Vb** and a reference signal **Vr**. A second (conditioning) circuit **235** is operable to produce a second signal **Ik** and to combine the second signal **Ik** with the first signal **Ip** to

produce a control signal **Id** having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero.

In contrast, Wakayama does not teach a circuit operable to combine first and second signals to produce a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero. Referring, *e.g.*, to column 7 lines 40-55, the Examiner equates Wakayama's control of current source 63 with the control signal of claim 10. While Applicants' attorney does not agree that these signals are equivalent, even if such comparison were valid, Wakayama does not disclose combining the input signals to transconductance amplifier 62 to produce that control signal. Amplifier 62 compares the signal voltages from "zero capacitor" 64 and "dump capacitor" 58 to control current source 63, but does not combine them.

Wakayama does not satisfy the limitations of claim 10 as amended, and Applicants' attorney therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Claims 11 and 14

These claims are patentable at least by virtue of their respective dependencies from claim 10.

Claim 19

Claim 19 as amended recites producing a first signal indicating a phase difference between a feedback signal and a reference signal, producing a second signal, and producing a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero by combining the first and second signals.

As discussed above with respect to claim 10, Wakayama does not disclose producing a control signal having an instantaneous value substantially equal to zero by combining first and second signals. Wakayama does not satisfy the limitations of claim 19. Applicants' attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the

rejection.

Claim 20

Claim 20 as amended is patentable for reasons substantially similar to those discussed with respect to amended claim 10.

Objection to claims 12-13 and 15-18 as being
Dependent on a rejected base claim

Applicant has amended claims 12-13 and 15 to indicate independent form, including all features of the original base and intervening claims. Claims 16-18 are in condition for allowance at least due to their respective dependencies from amended claim 15.

Conclusion

The absence of additional patentability arguments should not be construed as either a disclaimer of such arguments or that such arguments are not believed to be meritorious. Claims 1-9 have been allowed by the Examiner. In light of at least the reasons discussed herein, existing claims 2-9, 11, 14 and 16-18, amended claims 1, 10, 12-13, 15 and 19-20 and new claims 21-22 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further questions about the application, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at (425) 455-5575 to resolve the matter.

In the event additional fees are due as a result of this amendment, payment for those fees has been enclosed in the form of a check. Should further payment be required to cover such fees you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,

GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James J. Carter", is written over a horizontal dotted line.

James J. Carter
Registration No. 56,043
155 – 108th Avenue NE, Suite 350
Bellevue, WA 98004-5973
(425) 455-5575 Phone
(425) 455-1046 Fax